of which 25 are in Jharkhand. The vacancies in teaching posts in the country are about 3000 out of which about 40 are in Jharkhand.

(b) and (c) This year two schools have been opened in Jharkhand. At any point of time, a certain percentage of total staff strength remains vacant on account of retirement/voluntary retirement, deaths etc. which is a dynamic phenomenon. These vacancies are continuously filled up through annual recruitment.

Mid-day meal scheme in Karnataka

1412. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of children, so far, covered in Karnataka under Mid-day Meal Scheme;

(b) whether children upto eighth standard have been covered under the above Scheme in Karnataka; and

(c) the amount proposed to be released to Karnataka during 2003-04 for the implementation of the Mid-day Meal Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) As per available information, about 53.49 lakh students studying in primary classes (I-V) in Government, Government-aided, local bodies schools and Centres established under Education Guarantee Scheme are targeted to be covered under the National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP-NSPE) popularly called Mid-day Meal Scheme during 2003-04. The students studying in upper primary classes (VI-VIII) are not covered.

(c) Under the scheme, as foodgrains are supplied free of cost to States/UTs and admissible transportation charges are reimbursed, there are no State/UT wise allocation of funds.

Independent satellite for educational and cultural activities

1413. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Space in collaboration with the Ministry will be launching an independent satellite dedicated to educational and cultural activities;